

35. (Amended) The computer pointing device of claim 34, wherein each of the plurality of wire supports comprises a first wire, a second wire, and a third wire encased in a flexible sleeve, wherein a first end of the first wire is adjacent to a second end of the cover, a second end of the first wire is adjacent to a first end of the second wire, and a second end of the second wire is adjacent to a first end of the third wire.

37. (Amended) The computer pointing device of claim 35, wherein an upper surface of the bottom support comprises a plurality of holes, wherein each individual hole within the plurality of holes is adapted for receiving a portion of one of the plurality of wire supports that includes the third wire.

43. (Amended) The computer pointing device of claim 42, wherein a depth of the depression can accommodate a length of the spring when the spring is compressed.

REMARKS

The abstract, specification, and claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 16, 17, 21, 26, 29, 35, 37, and 43 have been amended. Claims 1-43 remain pending in this case. Further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application is respectfully requested.

Specification Objections

The abstract and specification have been amended to obviate concerns raised in the Office Action. Pertinent to the drawings, Applicants assert that a proposed drawing correction is unnecessary in light of the amended specification deleting reference numeral 42.

Claim Objections

The preamble of claims 2, 10, 17, and 26 are herein amended for consistency with the claims to which these claims depend. Therefore, objection thereto is rendered moot.

Section 112, Second Paragraph, Rejection

Claims 1, 5, 6, 16, 21, 26, 29, 35, 37, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the pending claims, whereupon the following amendments were made in conformity with that review in order to obviate this rejection.

Regarding claim 1, amendment is made herein to make clear that the wire supports reside on the bottom support. Support for the amendment is contained on page 10, lines 18-20, of the originally filed specification.

Regarding claims 5 and 6, the term "three wires" has been replaced with "a first wire, a second wire, and a third wire" in order to provide proper antecedent basis for such wires subsequently recited. In addition, the flexible sleeve is defined to comprise either plastic or rubber. Amendments made to claims 5 and 6 thereby render moot rejection thereto.

Regarding claims 26 and 37, amendment is made herein to make clear that each individual hole within the plurality of holes can receive one of the plurality of wire supports. Accordingly, amendment to claims 26 and 37 (as well as claim 10) are believed to render moot rejection thereto.

Regarding claims 5, 21, and 35, the terms "three wires" has been replaced with "a first wire, a second wire, and a third wire" to render moot rejection thereto.

Regarding claims 16 and 29, amendment is made herein to define the scores on an inner surface of the cover and, particularly, along a circumference(s) of the inner surface. Amendment to claims 16 and 29 is believed to render moot rejection thereto.

Regarding claim 43, the term "the entire" has been replaced with "a" when referencing a length of spring accommodated by a depth of the depression within the bottom support. Amendment to claim 43 is believed to render moot rejection thereto.

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Allowable Subject Matter

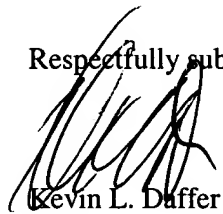
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, as well as the notation in the Office Action indicating the rejected claims set forth above would also be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the above amendments are believed to place the rejected claims in allowable form.

CONCLUSION

The present amendment and response is believed to be a complete response to the issues raised in the Office Action dated June 13, 2002. In view of the remarks addressing the rejections, Applicants assert that pending claims 1-43 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Conley, Rose & Tayon, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5468-00600.

Respectfully submitted,



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